

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ABSTRACT

HM&FW Department – Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 – Use of calcium carbide for ripening of fruits prohibited u/r 2.3.5 of Food Safety (Prohibition & Restriction on sale) Regulations 2011 – Implementation of the provisions of the Act – Orders – Issued.

HEALTH, MEDICAL AND FAMILY WELFARE (C2) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 107

Dated: 28-12-2015

Read:

Orders dated 13-10-2015 of the honorable High Court for the
State of Telangana and for the State of Andhra Pradesh,
Hyderabad in PIL No.219 of 2015.

ORDER:

Government of India has enacted integrated Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, (FSSA) by repealing the various existing food laws/orders to regulate and monitor the manufacture, process, pack, transport, store, distribute, sell and import of any food or food ingredient, so as to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and also to laying down science based standards.

2. As per 2.3.5 of Food Safety (Prohibition & Restriction on sale) Regulations 2011. "No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as Calcium Carbide [CaC₂]"

3. The Hon'ble High Court admitted a Suo Moto case vide PIL No. 219 of 2015 and observed that the problem of use of Calcium Carbide is pervasive and is more than expected. In order to prevent the use of Calcium Carbide by the wholesale / retail fruit vendors and the use of citizens Hon'ble High Court has directed to issue necessary directions to all the concerned on the observations.

4. The Government hereby direct all the concerned to take the following steps to ensure implementation of the provisions of the FSS Act 2006 in true spirit to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Court:-

- a) The warning poster of violation of Law with the use of calcium carbide for ripening fruits should also contain the declaration that "use of Calcium Carbide for ripening fruits is injurious to health".
- b) The vendors shall assure that the fruits sold at the shops are not ripened by using calcium carbide.
- c) The said notice / warning should be in English / Telugu / Urdu.
- d) Sufficient copies of the said notice / warning should be made available to local bodies.
- e) Ensure simultaneously participation of traders and stake holders on prohibition of use of calcium carbide through consistent mass / print electronic media contact programmes showing the impact on consumption of fruits ripened by Calcium Carbide.
- f) Ensure display at conspicuous place in Departmental stores / malls/ fruit stalls / Kiosks / pushcart cautioning / warning as "use of Calcium Carbide for ripening fruits is injurious to health".
- g) The display of posters shall be made mandatory by the local authorities through mass contact programmes by the officers of respective local bodies with the stake holders.

[P.T.O.]

- h) Telecast of awareness programmes on health effects by eating fruits ripened by Calcium Carbide.
- i) To take undertakings from the fruits vendors not to sell fruits ripened by Calcium Carbide.
- j) To educate the fruits vendors of penal consequences of fine and punishment under the FSS Act 2006 for alleged violation of safety norms.
- k) To carry out regular inspections and surprise visits of shops selling fruits to ensure implementation of the FSS Act 2006 by increasing the pressure on the fruits vendors etc., not to sell fruits ripened by Calcium Carbide.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF TELANGANA)

RAJESHWAR TIWARI
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner of Food Safety, Hyderabad
The Director, Institute of Preventive Medicine, Public Health Laboratories, Food (H) Admn,
T.S., Hyderabad
The Agriculture, Marketing & Cooperation Dept., T.S., Secretariat, Hyd.
The LET&F Dept, T.S., Secretariat, Hyd.
The Director General of Police, Red Hills, Nampally, Hyderabad
The MA&UD Dept.T.S., Secretariat
The Revenue Dept, T.S. Secretariat
The G.A. (I&PR) Dept
SF/SC

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER